

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 363, the Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Research Act.

I first want to thank Chairman Gordon for his leadership on the important issue of innovation, and commend our Committee's work towards investing in our research communities.

This past August, I invited Chairman Gordon to join me in a panel to discuss the subject of Innovation back in St. Louis. The Event was a tremendous success and sparked a conversation about competitiveness, STEM education and innovation that still continues with enthusiasm in St. Louis.

While this is an issue that warrants much discussion, the time has come for bold action.

Unfortunately, our nation's standing as the global leader in science and technology has slipped in recent years.

H.R. 363 will counteract this worrying trend by investing in long-term scientific research and encouraging young scientists and researchers to pursue high-risk and high-reward research.

Specifically, the bill administers awards to outstanding early-career researchers in academia and in nonprofit research organizations, provides graduate research assistantships in areas of national need and establishes a national coordination office to prioritize university and national research infrastructure needs. By investing in our young researchers, we invest in the ideas that will shape our country's future.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill to advance our nation's status as a leader in the global economy.